

The White House: The Global Messenger

Wednesday, May 7, 2003

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

All Times EDT/Subject to Change

12:15 p.m. -- State Department Briefing

12:30 p.m. -- White House Briefing

5:40 p.m. -- President Bush and Spanish President Aznar hold press availability

TBD -- Defense Department Briefing

KEY POINTS

- President Bush appointed Ambassador Bremer as Presidential Envoy to Iraq, an important next step forward in Iraq's long-term transition to democracy and prosperity that completes the senior U.S. management team.
- Bremer will oversee Coalition reconstruction efforts and the process by which the Iraqi people build the institutions and governing structures to guide their future.
- Major combat operations in Iraq have ended. Our coalition is now engaged in securing and reconstructing that country. The United States and our allies have prevailed, and because of this our nation and the Middle East are more secure, a tyrant has fallen and Iraq is now free.
- Difficult work lies ahead in Iraq:
 - Bringing order and security to parts that remain dangerous;
 - Bringing to justice the leaders of and those who are loyal to the old regime;
 - Locating hidden chemical and biological weapons;
 - Rebuilding Iraq's infrastructure after 30 years of devastation;
 - Standing by the Iraqi people as they establish a government of, by and for the Iraqi people.
- Saddam Hussein is no more. The terrorists can no longer find a source of funding or weapons of mass destruction from the Saddam Hussein regime, because that regime is gone forever.

EXAMPLES OF SPAIN'S ASSISTANCE FOR IRAQ

Spain is providing key assistance for military operations, maritime assistance and de-mining operations, as well as humanitarian aid and medical support, including:

- \$70.3 million in humanitarian aid, for emergency water and drainage facilities, electricity, transport and telecommunications, basic health care equipment and emergency materials.
- A field hospital at the port of Umm Qasr, to increase medical care in southern Iraq, including primary care, minor surgeries, and X-rays.

- Appointment of a high-level commissioner to coordinate reconstruction efforts and four high-level civil servants for the reconstruction.

Information provided by the Spanish government.

For more information: http://www.aeci.es/14-Documentacion/ayuda_humanitaria/iraq_en.htm#La_financiacion_de_la_ayuda: 52,9 millones de euros

COALITION STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

"Right up until the end, the Iraqi regime defied international law by ignoring its obligations to disarm... it threw away its last chance... With a full sense of our responsibilities, the government of this nation supports the reestablishment of international law so that conditions for peace and security prevail." -- **Spanish President Jose Maria Aznar, 3/20/03**

KEY QUOTE

"I'm not surprised if we begin to uncover the weapons program of Saddam Hussein...one thing we know is that he had a weapons program. We also know he spent years trying to hide the weapons program. And over time the truth will come out." -- **President Bush, to reporters, 5/6/03**

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Office of Global Communications

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